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are wisely put in the appendix. The political questions are suggestive by reason of the fact that they are concerned with movements for self-government among the planters. For social history one meets slave conditions, the theater, the tavern, the newspaper. The religious world of the colonists comes in for some slight mention, the most interesting references being to mission work among the blacks and some religious statistics.

Dr. Westergaard writes most engagingly. He has enlivened his narrative with portraits of striking individuals and dramatic episodes. The figures in his portrait gallery range from Captain Kidd and the Hohenzollern Great Elector—both of whom had relation with this colony—to mutinous blacks. And if we insist rather on the readable character of the book than on its prime value as history, the reason is that the latter merit, too obvious for comment, has been recognized since the book appeared. The eagerness with which the two promised sequels are awaited is an all-sufficient praise.

The work is well documented, has a good index, and the best available bibliography on the subject. The nine maps and four illustrations are well chosen and well reproduced. The format of the book leaves nothing to be desired. The late Prof. Henry Morse Stephens, of the University of California, contributed an introduction "to set forth the results of Dr. Westergaard's labors as bearing upon the general history of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries."

J. M. EGAN, S.T.L.

Ten Years near the German Frontier. By Maurice Francis Egan, former United States Minister to Denmark. New York: George H. Doran Company. 1919. Price, \$3 net.

In many respects memoirs are perhaps the most fascinating department of letters, combining, as they do, the charm of romance (for anyone to be at all justified in publishing memoirs must at least have rubbed elbows with romance), with the realism of history, and affording that intimate glimpse of persons and personalities which appeals to the spark of curiosity in the least gossip-loving of us all and demonstrates the kinship of the world. Time was when we had no choice but to say "They do

these things better in France," but if many volumes of memoirs similar to this of Dr. Egan's come out of America we shall no longer be under this necessity. The author's literary ability, which was long since established, was only one of the qualifications he took to his post as minister plenipotentiary of the United States to Denmark. Ten years of diplomatic service abroad is no slight record, and when we consider that these ten years covered the period just prior to and including the four years that have come to be recognized as among the most momentous in the history of the world, and remember that they were spent at Copenhagen, "a place where every diplomat in the world went at some time or other," we cannot be astonished that, given the literary skill of the author, the chronicle should turn out to be so replete with interest.

Denmark, it is true, would seem to have been somewhat "off the map," as far as the war was concerned; it was officially neutral, although from the Prussian standpoint it was German. We have had countless books written by men and women who prior to the war were residing and even holding official positions in what became enemy territory, or who were caught in the war zone at the outbreak of hostilities, but naturally enough many of these convey the impression of having been written at too close range; their authors could not see the wood for the trees. But Dr. Egan had the advantage of an excellent perspective, and, at the same time, of being near enough to see and hear a great many important things. In the very first chapter of his book he shows that Denmark was not so far off the map as at first one might be inclined to think, inasmuch as the Prussian policy which resulted in the Great War began with the annexation by Germany, in 1864, of the Danish province of Slesvig and the Kiel Canal.

We know now what an important element this seizure was in the formation of the great fleet that was to have dominated the world, and with our dearly purchased after-sight we recognize readily enough that the seizure of Denmark would have been but a small item in the further pursuit of this rapacious policy, and still smaller, but to us how tremendous, would have been the seizure of the Danish colonies. For included among those colonies at that time were the islands of St. Thomas, St. John and Ste. Croix (Santa Cruz), in the West Indies, the first two

forming a part of what Columbus called the Virgin Islands. Now the first of these, St. Thomas, lies thirty-six miles east of Porto Rico, the possession of the United States of America and of inestimable strategic value.

When one reads things like this one realizes that the Government does not maintain in European countries a picked body of clever men merely that they may be of use to American citizens who get into difficulties in foreign parts, nor in order that they may participate not too discredibly in brilliant court functions in the name of a great and independent democracy. For this book was not written merely to furnish attractive sketches of crowned heads and diplomats and international celebrities nor to record brilliant bits of conversation—though it does both—but in order to place on record the negotiations which resulted in the purchase of the Danish West Indies by the United States of America, and it is written by the person best qualified to do so, the man who recognized the paramount importance of the step to this country and who as her accredited representative had the difficult task of influencing to this end the votes of the Danish people—for the question was put to a plebiscite.

All the difficulties he encountered are recorded here with just that saving grace that lifts the book—serious history though it is—out of the dry-as-dust category and gives it a place on the not-too-crowded shelf which holds the volumes one reads for entertainment as well as instruction, the kind of thing that Horace Walpole did wittingly and Pepys unwittingly. It detracts nothing from the reliability of the narrative that, although we know the purchase to have become an accomplished fact, the story of the preliminaries is told with a dramatic touch that makes us hold our breath with anxiety for the outcome. But through all the pages runs this note, born of the literary sense, without which how many historians are born, which breathes the breath of life into the men and women they depict and who are so far removed from us in antecedent and environment that, at the mercy of a less skilled pen, they would have been in danger of remaining mere smears of ink. It inclines one to think that not every German utterance was wholly false, and that Count Henckel-Donnersmarck, many of whose enlightening remarks are set down here, was right when he said:

"The point of view is made by literature." In this instance it is not too much to say that literature has been made by a point of view, enhanced by a sense of humor.

BLANCHE MARY KELLY.

American Negro Slavery, by Ulrich Bonnell Phillips, Ph.D. New York. D. Appleton and Company, 1919.

Professor Phillips' book is an attempt to sketch the rise, nature, and influence of Negro slavery in the regions of its concentration.

American Negro Slavery covers a good deal of ground in its five hundred and fourteen pages. There are chapters on what most of us in our boyhood used to associate with the "romantic" side of slavery, in which we renew acquaintance with such men and institutions as Las Casas, Sir John Hawkins, the Dutch West India Company and the slave-markets. Also, there are chapters on tobacco, rice, cotton, and sugar, which we recall as influences that tended to make slavery a fixture in this country. There are other chapters that recount the rise of moral scruples in Colonial times and their prostitution at a later date to political expedients. Finally, there are pictures, charming pictures indeed, of plantation life in which is fully satisfied the conventional idea of the plantation Negro as a sort of "double-shuffling" and "possum-hunting" individual.

All this is enough to show that what Professor Phillips has done is not so much to give us a new book as to furnish us with complete information with which we may correct and augment our somewhat hazy and indefinite notions of American slavery. The majority of people have obtained their conceptions of slave conditions from novels, and rather poor ones at that, and from sensational films. Even where the desire for knowledge was more pretentious the only material at hand was of a violently biased nature meant not to explore and portray facts but to exploit traditions and prejudices. There is probably no one subject in American history that is more thoroughly and more generally misunderstood than the ante-bellum situation of the Negro. The consequence is that, failing in our knowledge of the Negro's